


# BROADBAND EXPANSION GRANT APPLICATION

## For Fiscal Year 2022

Primary Applicant (Name and Address):  <b>Wittenberg Telephone Co./Wittenberg Wireless LLC dba          Cirrinity LLC          PO BOX 160          104 W Walker Street          Wittenberg, WI 54499</b>	Applications MUST be UPLOADED to ERF via the Commission's website, <a href="http://psc.wi.gov/apps35/ERF_upload/content/mymenu.aspx">http://psc.wi.gov/apps35/ERF_upload/content/mymenu.aspx</a> . Refer to section 2.3 for detailed instructions.  Applications are due and MUST be uploaded to ERF no later than: <b>March 17, 2022</b> at 4:00pm (16:00) Central Time. <b>Late applications will not be accepted.</b>	
Contact for further information: <a href="mailto:PSCStatebroadbandoffice@wisconsin.gov">PSCStatebroadbandoffice@wisconsin.gov</a>		
Date: December 1, 2021		
<p>The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin is seeking applications for Broadband Expansion Grants. The Commission may award one or more grants during Fiscal Year 2022 to public and private entities that meet the eligibility requirements set forth in Wis. Stat. § 196.504. This grant round will be funded with bond proceeds authorized by the Wisconsin Building Commission pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 13.48(30). As such, successful applicants are subject to the requirements of Wis. Stat. § 13.48(30). Successful applicants will demonstrate a clear and achievable plan to improve broadband communications services in one or more underserved areas in the State.</p>		
<p><b>Applicant Certification:</b> In signing this application, the undersigned verifies under penalty of perjury that the Applicant and its employees and agents have not, either directly or indirectly, entered into any agreement or participated in any collusion or otherwise taken any action in restraint of free competition with respect to this application; that no attempt has been made to induce any other person or firm to submit or not to submit an application; that this application has been independently arrived at without collusion with any other proposer, competitor or potential competitor; that this application has not been knowingly disclosed prior to the opening of applications to any other applicant or competitor; that all of the responses and representations of Applicant in this application are true and correct to the best of the undersigned's knowledge, information, and belief; and that Applicant agrees to, accepts, and will comply with all of the terms and conditions respecting this application and any award of a broadband expansion grant as may be established in a grant award Agreement.</p>		
Name of Authorized Representative (Type or Print)  Scott Nyman	Title  CEO/General Manager	Phone (715)253-2114
Signature of Authorized Representative 	Date 3/16/22	

## SUMMARY OF GRANT APPLICATION

Primary Applicant Name <b>Wittenberg Telephone Co./Wittenberg Wireless LLC dba Cirrinity LLC</b>	Amount of Broadband Grant Request (round to nearest dollar) <b>\$1,381,250</b>
Federal Employer Identification No. <b>39-0718390</b>	Amount of Matching Funds Pledged (round to nearest dollar) <b>\$1,381,250</b>
Contact Name and Title  <b>Scott Nyman, CEO/General Manager</b>	Total Cost of Proposed Project (round to nearest dollar) <b>\$2,762,500</b>
Telephone Number <b>(715)253-2114</b>	Project Name <b>Langlade County Towns of Rolling, Norwood, and Polar FTTH Project</b>
E-mail Address(es) <a href="mailto:snyman@cirrinity.net">snyman@cirrinity.net</a>	Type of Proposed Broadband Service (FTTH, Cable, DSL, etc.)  <b>FTTH</b>
Grant Manager, if different than Primary Applicant	Type of Proposed Project (Last-mile, Middle-Mile, backbone, other)  <b>Last-mile, Backbone</b>
Grant Manager Contact Name	Grant Manager Email Address and Telephone Number
If the application proposes a public-private partnership, list the names, addresses, and FEINs of the partner companies or organizations <b>Langlade County, 837 Clermont Street, Antigo, WI 54409, FEIN 39-6005713</b> <b>Langlade County Economic Development, 312 Forrest Drive, Antigo, WI 54409</b> <b>Town of Polar, W6979 St. Hwy 64, Polar, WI 54418, FEIN 39-1287517</b> <b>Town of Norwood, W7380 St. Hwy 47, Antigo, WI 54409, FEIN – 39-1360451</b> <b>Town of Rolling, W10468 County Road G, Antigo, WI 54409, FEIN – 39-1405708</b>	
Brief Project Description (2 sentences) <b>Complete building FTTH in the Towns of Rolling, Norwood, and Polar with 65 miles of fiber optic and past 525 homes and businesses. This project will build off of our existing grants from previous rounds which has sparked an additional investment from Cirrinity and expanded our partnership with Langlade County and the Towns of Polar, Norwood, and Rolling.</b>	
Maximum Proposed Download Transmission Speed <b>10 Gigabit</b>	Maximum Proposed Upload Transmission Speed <b>10 Gigabit</b>
Minimum Proposed Download Speed to Customer Location <b>100M</b>	Minimum Proposed Upload Transmission Speed to Customer Location <b>100M</b>
County or Counties served by this project <b>Langlade County</b>	Community or Communities served by this project <b>Towns of Rolling, Norwood, and Polar</b>

List of the broadband service providers, if any, currently serving the area the applicant proposes to serve <b>Frontier North, Inc.</b> <b>Bertram Wireless</b> <b>Cirrinity – (Fixed Wireless in some areas)</b>	
Does proposed project serve an <u>unserved</u> area of the State, as defined in <a href="#">Section 1.4</a> of the application instruction? (yes/no)  <b>YES</b>	Is the Applicant certified as a Broadband Forward! Community or Telecommuter Forward! Community, or does the grant project propose to serve a Broadband Forward! Community or Telecommuter Forward! Community? (yes/no) <b>YES, Telecommuter Forward</b>
For last mile projects or component the expected number of Business Locations that will have access to the improved broadband service (i.e., total business locations passed or with new service access). <b>15</b>	For last mile projects or components the expected number of Residential Locations that will have access to the improved broadband service (i.e., total residential locations passed or with new service access). <b>510</b>
Of the improved business locations, how many locations are <i>unserved</i> ?  <b>15</b>	Of the improved residential locations, how many are <i>unserved</i> ?  <b>510</b>
For providers that are eligible telecommunications carriers will the proposed broadband service be available to Lifeline customers? (yes/no)  <b>Yes</b>	Are there any programs available for low-income households to access low-cost service or discounts? (yes/no)  <b>Yes ACP (Affordable Connectivity Program)</b>
Is the internet service provider currently participating in the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program? (yes/no) <b>Now ACP - Yes</b>	Is the internet service provider currently participating in the Department of Public Instruction and CESA purchasing's Digital Learning Bridge? (yes/no) <b>No</b>
Did the internet service provider participate in the Public Service Commission's voluntary Broadband Coverage Data Collection in 2021? (yes/no) <b>Yes</b>	

### Grant Summary

<b>Grant Applicant:</b>	<b>Project:</b>
Wittenberg Telephone Co./Wittenberg Wireless DBA Cirrinity LLC	Langlade County Towns of Rolling, Norwood, and Polar

### Budget

Line:	Description / Category:	Grant Funds:	Match:	Total:
1	Contractual, Consultant Fees	\$ 994,500.00	\$ 994,500.00	\$ 1,989,000.00
2	Equipment	\$ 359,125.00	\$ 359,125.00	\$ 718,250.00
3	Supplies			\$ -
4	Labor (Salary, Fringe)	\$ 27,625.00	\$ 27,625.00	\$ 55,250.00
5	Permitting, Licensing Fees			\$ -
6	Travel			\$ -
7	Other			\$ -
<b>Total:</b>		<b>\$ 1,381,250.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,381,250.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,762,500.00</b>
50.0% match requested				

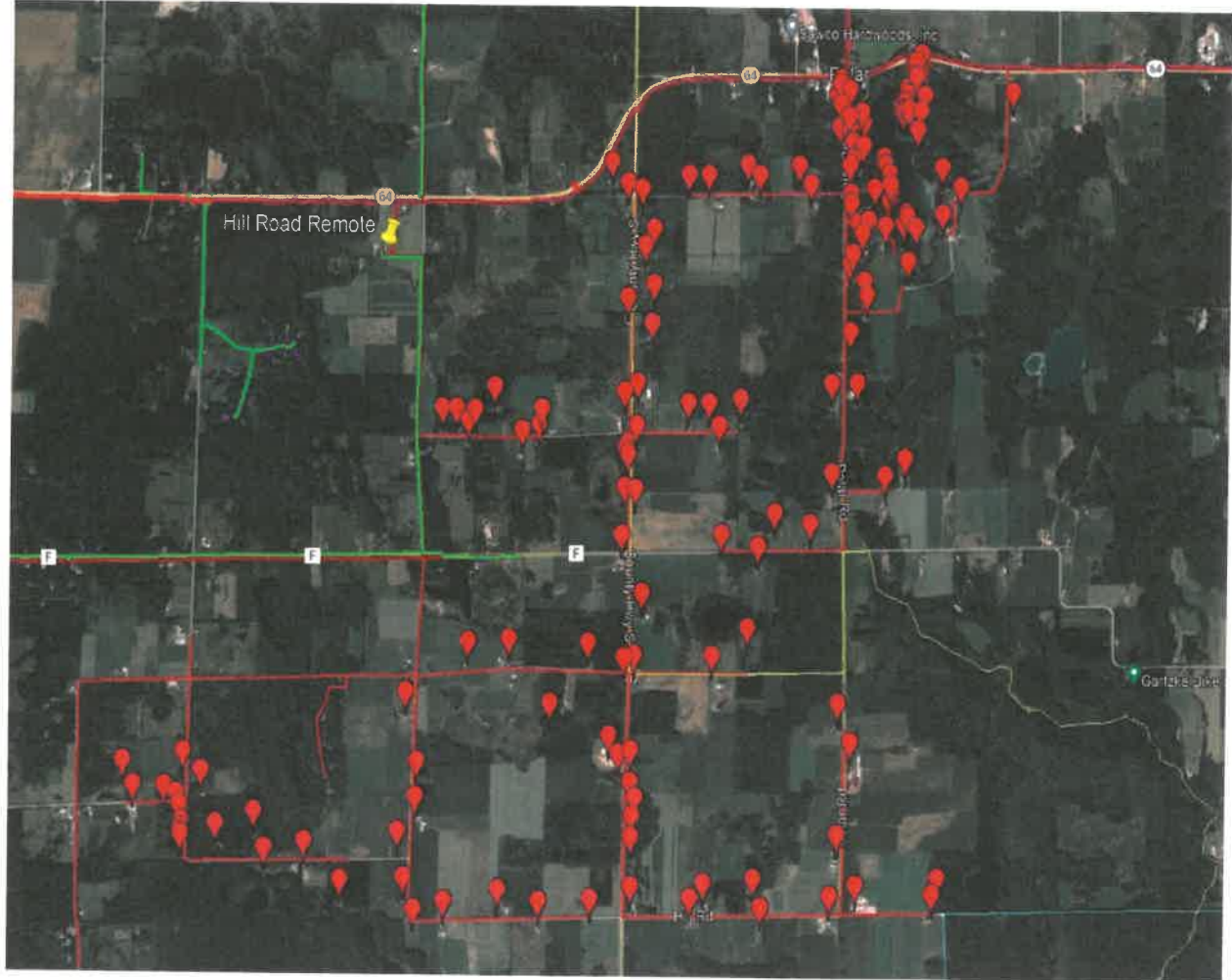
### Pledged Contributions

#:	Entity:	Entity Type:	Pledge Type:	Pledge:
1	Town Of Polar	Partner	Cash	\$ 50,240.91
2	Town Of Norwood	Partner	Cash	\$ 45,000.00
3	Town Of Rolling	Partner	Cash	\$ 75,000.00
4	Cirrinity LLC	Applicant	Cash	\$ 1,211,009.09
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
<b>Total:</b>				<b>\$ 1,381,250.00</b>

## Maps

**Description:** The Town of Polar is in this photo, and you will see that (RED) lines are the proposed Fiber routes and (RED) balloons are homes and businesses passed for this application. The other colored lines are our previous fiber routes.

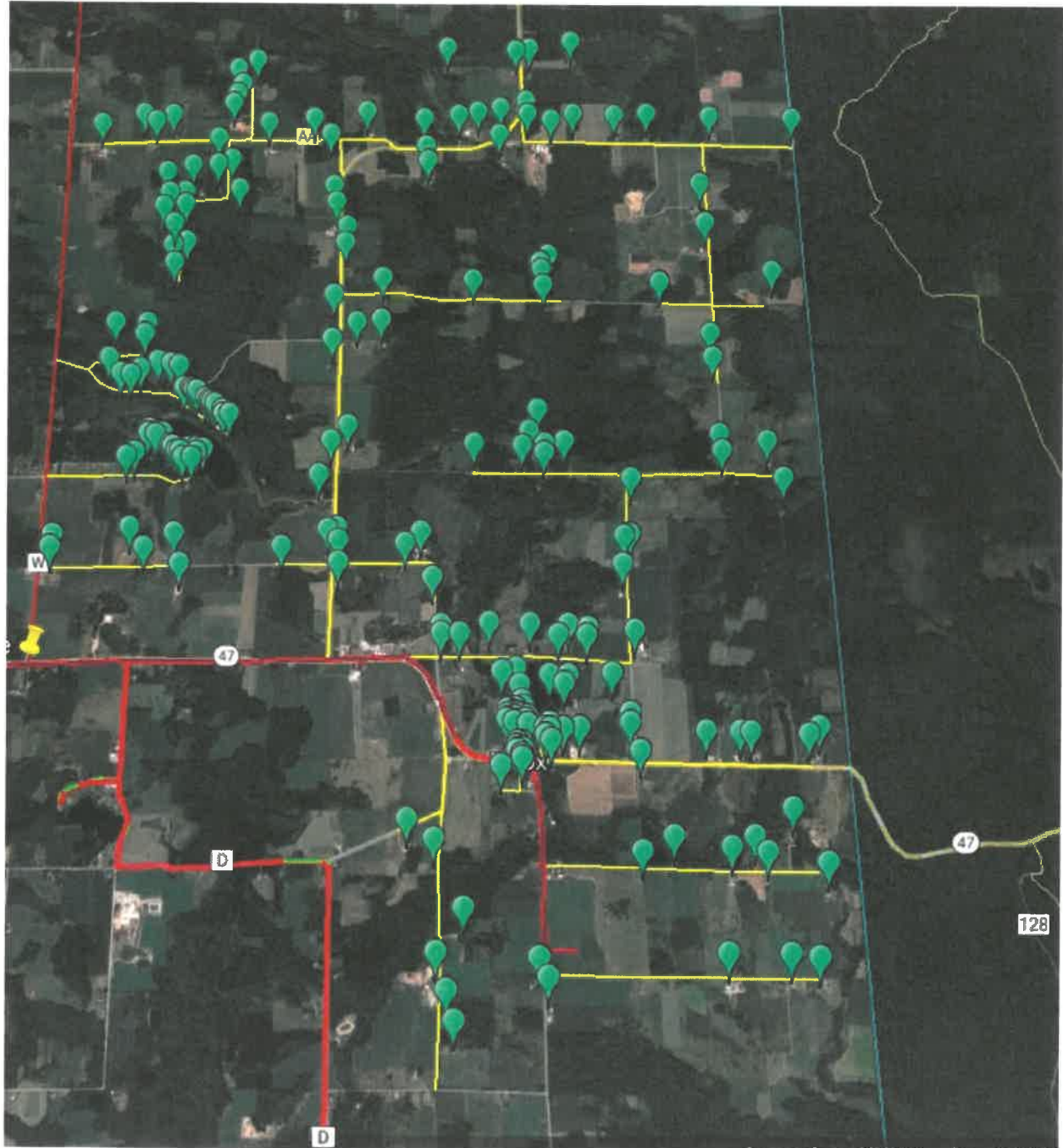
### Town of Polar





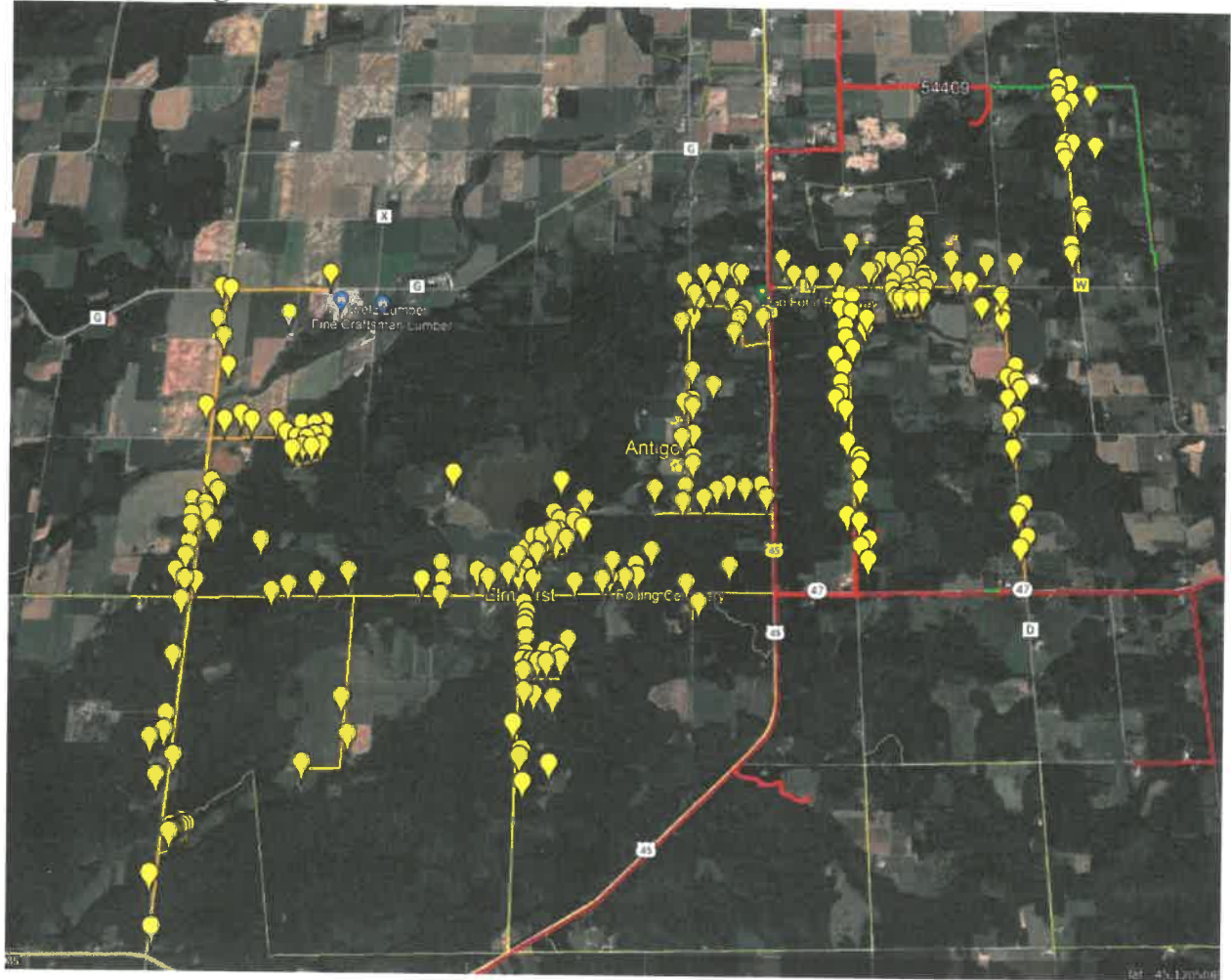
**Description:** The Town of Norwood is in this photo, and you will see that (YELLOW) lines are the proposed Fiber routes and (GREEN) balloons are homes and businesses passed for this application. The other (RED) colored lines are our previous fiber routes from private investment.

### Town of Norwood



**Description:** The Town of Rolling is in this photo, and you will see that (ORANGE) lines are the proposed Fiber routes and (YELLOW) balloons are homes and businesses passed for this application. The other (RED and GREEN) colored lines are our previous fiber routes from private investment.

### Town of Rolling



## 1.0 Executive Summary of the Application

Cirrinity proposes a fully Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTH) deployment in partnership with Langlade County in the Towns of Polar, Rolling, and Norwood.

Langlade County and Cirrinity has created a public-private partnership starting in 2010 and Langlade County Economic Development in 2015, and have worked as a team together to close the digital divide and provide the vital Broadband that is needed to the rural community areas. In the past 6 years through the partnerships and with the assistance of Broadband Expansion Grants 70+ miles of Buried FTTH construction has been completed in the past five years past 1300+ residents, businesses, and several County towers and facilities. Due to that partnership Cirrinity has been able to reach several homes in need that as you will see in the letters of support later in this application show the need in the for viable affordable Broadband in the areas proposed exists. This project will allow 510 residential homes and 15 businesses to get Gigabit FTTH they need increasing internet access in the Towns of Rolling, Norwood, and Polar. This project helps accomplish the goal of the Wisconsin Broadband Plan – 2019 which states “The Broadband Plan’s goal is for every Wisconsinite to have affordable access to broadband service, if they so choose, by January 2025” as it encompasses a Buried FTTH build out of distribution, last mile, and backbone over the path of 65 miles of rural unserved areas, and Cirrinity does participate in the Affordable Connectivity Program and through coordination with the schools provides reduced internet to families in need. Our continued partnership with Langlade County is shown in this application as we continue to work together and collaborate bringing Broadband to areas of need in the County.

The majority area of this proposal for this grant round is described as “unserved/underserved” in that there are no broadband service offerings providing a speed of 25/3 as we have confirmed in our current FTTH buildout that this project will expand on. Consumers have reported long wait times for repairs and in some instances new customers have been unable to obtain service from the incumbent provider. Taking into account the outdated copper last mile deployment strategies by the incumbent telephone provider, expansion of true 100M/100M broadband services in these areas is not anticipated or expected. Providers in this area include landline: Frontier North Inc. and Wireless: Bertram Wireless, Cirrinity LLC, and other major mobile carriers.

**Matching contributions of \$1,381,250 (50%) toward this project’s \$2,762,500 cost will be provided by Cirrinity LLC and the Towns of Polar, Norwood, and Rolling. These contributions, as always, are substantial, and arise from the understanding that these areas are severely underserved. The incumbent voice provider has not provided a fiber-based broadband solution to the area.**



### **3.2 Mandatory Application Requirements**

#### **3.2.1 Applicant identification and contact information**

- a. *The name of the entity applying for the grant, and the mailing address, telephone number and e-mail address of one or more contact persons representing the applicant.*

Name of Entity: Wittenberg Telephone Company, Inc/Wittenberg Wireless LLC dba Cirrinity LLC

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 160, 104 W. Walker Street, Wittenberg, WI 54499-0160

Telephone Number: 715-253-2111

Contact: Scott Nyman, General Manager [snyman@cirrinity.net](mailto:snyman@cirrinity.net)

- b. *If the application proposes a public-private partnership, the identity and contact information for all application partners.*

Recognizing distinct local and countywide benefits of this application, the Town of Polar Board has committed \$50,240.91, the town of Norwood has committed \$45,000, and the town of Rolling \$75,000 in ARPA matching funds. Cirrinity LLC has offered up \$1,211,009.09 in matching funds and Langlade County has determined to continue to support us in our endeavors by working with Towns in the area as well as working in-kind in our future plans of expansion in the area and permit expedites. The Langlade County Economic Development department has also committed in-kind support in helping work with the Towns as well as the communication to County residents.

#### **Public-Private Partnerships**

Name of Entity: Langlade County Economic Development  
Mailing Address: 312 Forrest Ave, Antigo, WI 54409  
Telephone Number: (715)623-2085  
Contact: Angela Close

Name of Entity: Town of Polar  
Mailing Address: W6979 St. Hwy. 64, Polar, WI 54418  
Telephone Number: (715)627-4486  
Contact: Jane Kolpack – Clerk

Name of Entity: Town of Norwood  
Mailing Address: W7380 St. Hwy 47, Antigo, WI 54409  
Telephone Number: (715)627-6200  
Contact: Paula Resch – Clerk

Name of Entity: Town of Rolling  
Mailing Address: W10394 County Road G, Antigo, WI 54409  
Telephone Number: (715)627-2955  
Contact: Clerk - Connie Kakes

- c. *The application must show that the applicant is an organization, a telecommunications utility, or a city, village, town, or county that has established a legal partnership or joint venture arrangement with an otherwise qualified organization or telecommunications utility, and as such meets the eligibility requirements set forth in Wis. Stat. § 196.504(1).*

Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier Wittenberg Telephone Company Inc. is certified to provide telecommunications service in the State of Wisconsin pursuant to Section 196.50(2)(b) of the Wisconsin State Statute. Wittenberg Telephone Company (PSCW Utility #6750) currently serves the Wittenberg and Elderon exchanges of Wisconsin in study area #330973.

Wittenberg Wireless LLC now Cirrinity LLC (PSCW Utility #6752), a wholly owned subsidiary of Wittenberg Telephone Company, has been designated an Alternate Exchange Carrier by the Commission. Cirrinity LLC has an active Interconnection Agreement with Frontier North, Inc. that was approved by the PSCW in its Docket 5-TI-2357

### **3.2.2 Description of the Project**

- a. *A static map and description of the area of the State that will be affected by the proposed project.*

1. A map file has been emailed to [pscbroadbanddata@wisconsin.gov](mailto:pscbroadbanddata@wisconsin.gov) to show the affected areas of the project immediately following submission of this application to the ERF.
2. The proposed service area includes the entire Southern 1/3 of Langlade County in the Towns of Rolling, Norwood and to the East to the Town of Polar. The maps on page 5, 6, and 7 show the fiber backbone routes as well as the last mile construction to over 525 homes and businesses.

The fiber backbone flows throughout this portion of the County to reach more homes, farms and businesses. Fiber pedestals will be constructed at intervals for drops and also to facilitate future expansion. As provided in the Executive Summary on page 8 this area has a history of being underserved.

- c. *An explanation of how the proposed project will increase broadband access.*

- a) Potential and Expected Number of households served including number of unserved and underserved locations. **510 residents all underserved**
- b) Potential and expected number of businesses served. **15 Businesses all underserved**
- c) Estimated download and upload speed of the broadband service packages available for purchase:

100M/100M symmetrical unlimited \$59.99 per month

500M/500M symmetrical unlimited \$99.99 per month

1 Gigabit/1 Gigabit symmetrical unlimited \$139.99 per month

Higher speeds available on request up to 10 Gigabit

- d. *A statement whether the proposed project is targeting the “last mile,” “middle mile,” or backbone portion of the broadband infrastructure.*

- a) The proposed project includes backbone, distribution and last mile fiber facilities. The project is an extension of Cirrinity's existing fiber network, with dedicated backbone, distribution, feeder and drop fiber to premises in the service area.
  - b) No middle mile infrastructure costs or construction are included in this grant application.
  - c) Cirrinity LLC currently maintains sufficient middle mile and backhaul facilities, and capacity, on its existing backbone ring network to deliver high-speed broadband services to all proposed and future last mile subscribers in the area.
- e. *A description of the broadband service to be provided, including estimated download and upload speeds, whether the speed is dedicated or shared bandwidth, and the technology that will be used.*
- 1. In this Application, Cirrinity will provide its high-speed wireline broadband service using a FTTH network design. This will be an extension of the fiber network currently in place and used in the Wittenberg Telephone service territory. The same technology will be used to provide the longest-lived service infrastructure to new customers in this application
  - 2. This will also be an extension of the fiber network currently in place and used in the Wittenberg Telephone service territory. The same successful wireless technology as has been implemented elsewhere by the company to provide the longest-lived service infrastructure to new customers in this application
  - 3. This fiber network will be connected to the existing fiber network and broadband electronics used to provide broadband services in the Wittenberg Telephone service territory
  - 4. Pricing of FTTH broadband in the proposed service area will be as follows: --and have not changed since 2021. Don't expect to raise.  
100M/100M dedicated unlimited \$59.99  
500M/500M dedicated unlimited \$99.99  
1 Gigabit/1 Gigabit dedicated unlimited \$139.99
  - 5. Much faster service speeds will be immediately available, and priced ICB for residential and business customers with special needs
  - 6. Fully-featured VoIP voice services will be available at subscribers' request. Subscribers will not be required to take voice services in the proposed service area. Cirrinity will provide video services via a partnership.
- d. *A schedule by which the applicant intends to complete the components of the proposed project.*

If the grant application for the project is approved by the end of July 2022 Cirrinity will follow the deployment schedule below, based on similar projects we have completed:

August 2022 – March 2023	Order and stage equipment
May – September 2023	Bury new backbone and last mile fiber optic cable
October – December 2023	Install electronics at FTTH subscriber locations and

turning up all customer services

NOTE: This schedule is subject to no unforeseen circumstances in the supply chain as we are currently experiencing some delays of equipment and materials needed to complete these in-depth future proof FTTH projects.

### **3.2.3 Itemized Budget**

- *In addition to the Summary of Project Budget that is included as page 3, applicants should include a price list or quote for any equipment the applicant intends to purchase, including capital expenditures. The application should also indicate whether any facilities involved would be owned, rented, or leased.*

All construction and installation costs will be managed by Cirrinity. The company and will utilize internal employees and trusted third party contractors the company has successfully used in similar fiber and wireless builds.

All fiber and network equipment will be owned by Cirrinity LLC., a wholly owned subsidiary of Wittenberg Telephone Company.

- *The application must show that the grant, if awarded, will not subsidize the expenses of a telecommunications provider or the monthly bills of telecommunications customers. For purposes of this grant program, subsidize means a contribution to the operating costs, including profit, of the telecommunications provider.*

The grant funds requested in this Application will only be used for authorized purposes. The applicant will not subsidize its ongoing expenses or the monthly bills of telecommunications customers. It is understood that for purposes of this grant program, subsidy means a contribution to the recurring service charges, operating costs, including profit, of the telecommunications provider.

- *The application must show that the grant funds requested will be used for the sole purpose of constructing broadband infrastructure in the underserved areas covered by the application. Construction of broadband infrastructure may include any of the following:*

- *Project planning that takes place during the performance period*

All project planning activities will be paid for by Cirrinity.

- *Obtaining Construction Permits*

All Permits will be obtained by Cirrinity and its sub-contractors while also working with the County and Towns on an in-kind basis.

- *Construction of facilities, including construction of both “middle mile” and “last mile” infrastructure.*

All construction of last mile infrastructure will be paid for by Cirrinity. The application does not include any expenditure for middle-mile facilities. All middle-mile expenditures are incurred and managed by Cirrinity, as part of its scalable infrastructure.

- *Installation and testing of the broadband service*

All installation and testing activities will be paid for by Cirrinity.

Cirrinity affirmatively states all grant funds requested in this Application will be used for the sole purpose of constructing broadband infrastructure in the underserved areas covered by this Application. The partners' self-funded contributions to this project's costs will be 55.0% of construction and testing costs, with any over-runs covered by Cirrinity.

### 3.2.4 Priority factors supporting the application

#### a. Matching Funds

Can be found on the Funding Statement on Page 4 **\$1,381,250**

- b. Public-private partnerships. *If the public-private partnership is memorialized in a joint venture agreement or other writing, provide a copy of that agreement. If the partnership has not been reduced to a written agreement, provide a short description of the management role, financial commitment, or other contribution to the project for each participating partner.*

Since 2010 Cirrinity has been working with Langlade County and engaged in activities to expand Broadband throughout the County. In 2015 Langlade County Economic Development and Cirrinity began our partnership and that effort has expanded to all the Towns in the area and support of the recently created Broadband Commission which is provided in supporting documentation at the end of this application. The Town of Polar, Rolling, and Norwood have been actively working with us since 2019 on getting viable broadband to its residents. We have done work to build a Fixed Wireless solution in some areas but now is time to get ALL residents a fiber Broadband connection to keep them having a positive experience. Cirrinity and Langlade County have partnered on several previous Grants with the Broadband expansion program and have been very successful in completing these projects by working together on expedited permitting and funding. Most recently we were awarded a Grant in the Fall 2021 ARPA Grant Round to complete the build to all EMS towers around the County greatly improving emergency services to its residents.

The Towns of Polar, Rolling, and Norwood and Langlade County have agreed to the following to assist on top of financial support:

1. Provide in-kind assistance to the Project which may be in the form of waived fees and expenses for obtaining permits or permissions required;
2. Grant permission on and across Town and County property, to engage in activities to construct the Project in compliance with all existing rules and regulations;
3. Provide community education and outreach regarding the expansion of broadband access to residences and businesses within the scope of the Project; and recognizing that the broadband expansion project is a priority and is consistent with any internal planning documents

- c. Existing broadband service. *A list of the broadband service providers, if any, currently serving the area the applicant proposes to serve.*



- *The degree to which the proposed project avoids duplicating existing broadband infrastructure.*

Cirrinity's proposed project does not duplicate existing broadband infrastructure. No carrier today in the proposed project area is capable of offering a consistently reliable and available broadband service as defined by the state's and the FCC's 25/3 Mbps standard.

- *Provide a list of all landline broadband service providers (DSL, cable or fiber to the home) and fixed wireless broadband service providers that overlap the footprint of the proposed broadband project.*

The incumbent provider, Frontier North makes available a copper DSL service described with speeds of up to 6/1 Mbps in most of the proposed grant area, with no known plans to make a significant investment in achieving faster speeds. A few Frontier areas, abutting are shown on the state's Broadband Map as offering speeds up to 6/1 Mbps, and some census blocks are shown either with no speed or as "unserved". No other landline providers in the area are known.

Cirrinity and Bertram Wireless appear as the only fixed wireless providers of broadband services, with speeds in the range of 5-20 Mbps subject to tree lines and weather, but these are not seen by the provider as viable services as older equipment becomes obsolete.

- *If known, provide an estimate of the customers within the proposed footprint that are served by competing landline and fixed wireless broadband service providers, and the download/upload speeds offered by those competing service providers.*

In addition to speeds mentioned directly above, letters from businesses and home owners in the proposed project area offer a resounding set of comments that incumbent landline speeds either fall below advertised levels and/or are not sufficient for current needs, much less those of the coming 2 years or more.

- *Provide a list of mobile wireless broadband service providers that overlap the footprint of the proposed project.*

Mobile/cellular broadband service is advertised by AT&T, T-Mobile, US Cellular, and CellCom. Sprint advertises coverage of approximately a third of the proposed area. None provide particular advertised data speeds as of early March 2022. Letters of support at the end of this application includes actual customer feedback that such speeds are not truly available in these areas, and that the incumbent was resistant to expanding their infrastructure to do so. We also have shown high 60% or higher take rates in areas we have already built FTTH in this area and expect the same for this project.

- d. ***Project Impact*** *A description of the geographic area and the population, both in terms of absolute numbers and likely users, which will be served by the proposed project.*

*Indicate the number of anticipated residential and business customers in the project area, if known. Explain the speed and quality of internet service that will be available. Include information about the range of packages available for purchase. Provide details on any low-income access programs and steps the project will take to support adoption.*

The geographic area served by the project include the Towns of Polar, Rolling, and Norwood in rural Langlade County. Cirrinity has identified approximately 525 current household units of which 15 are known to be business or work from home. Based on previous fiber expansions, 85% of these are likely to take service in the first two years, with a long-term target of two thirds to 90%. The network has been engineered to accommodate a 100% take rate, plus growth due to the economic impact of this build.

Cirrinity's fiber to the home (FTTH) deployment, the area will benefit the areas by providing:

- The first 25/3 and faster FTTH broadband to almost all current and future Community residences and businesses, capable of accommodating continual speed increases past GigE speeds for a generation to have data connectivity and video entertainment,
- Enable both residential and home business connectivity to high-speed Internet services. Increase the productivity of home agricultural businesses.
- Raise the value of local housing and the area in general due to FTTH broadband availability.

Primary benefits of this project include:

1. Delivering the area's only fiber-to-the-home (FTTH), schools and business high speed broadband service. The provision of up to gigabit and faster connectivity will give residents world class access to education, healthcare, Work at Home applications and video services, not previously available in this area. Businesses coming to these communities will now be on an equal footing with their urban counterparts, attracting capital and workers not now in the area. It is expected that new housing and jobs will be stimulated by the existing of fiber-based broadband services.
2. High speed broadband service will allow many residents to work at home as employers allow. This broadband project will provide the facility-based infrastructure to expand to new housing developments as an amenity raising housing value as a destination.
3. Tourism. The project area is a large tourism destination drawing people from all over the Midwest. Tourism includes shopping and dining along the many Wisconsin natural treasures, blossoming stores, lodges, casual restaurants, services and gas stations. There are many places for fishing, hiking, and site seeing. Increased tourism is this area's principal engine for economic development as increased job opportunities and the ability to spend time as they move through the Ice Age trails, enjoying locally available products and services from the local business community raise its visibility across the region. The

area is known as the County of Trails and is shown by the sheer number of ATV/UTV, snowmobile, cross-country skiing, and hiking trails around every corner.

4. Access to emergency services. High-speed fiber-based broadband services enable rural practitioners in the medical facilities of the area to transmit medical imagery and data to clinics and healthcare providers in larger population centers. Along with access to broadband, this is cited as an important concern of visitors and seasonal residents—apart from the value it confers to permanent residents and small businesses in the area. The local fire station, roads department, social centers, high school, County offices, and Emergency Services approached Cirrinity for fiber connectivity necessary to maintain and grow their roles and we delivered.
5. Cirrinity will now be able to meet past requests for fiber that will create more opportunities for residents, visitors and travelers to this 4-season leisure and tourism area to include the relocation of Tele-workers to a slice of the Northwoods.
6. Home WIFI networks will expand the range of cellular phones, access to emergency services and provide connectivity in homes choosing not to use landline telephone services.
- **Cirrinity is a participant in the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) formerly EBB Emergency Broadband Benefit and all residents affected by this project would be able to apply to qualify for the benefit. Cirrinity will communicate this to all customers at the time of sign up as well as proactively via Social Media marketing and regular Bill messages after a customer has service.**
- e. **Scalability.** *A description of how the proposed project could expand or improve the broadband service it delivers, while maintaining the quality of its broadband service. This description should include specific projected increases in the following parameters that are known at the time of the application:*
  - *The number of users.*
  - *The number of network nodes.*
  - *The number of services provided.*
  - *The geographic area served by the project.*

*This description may also include a discussion of possible growth potential that is outside the commitment the applicant is making as part of its application.*

This project is intended to grow to ultimately accommodate all current estimated at 525 and all future residential and businesses in the FTTH target area. Our existing Nodes will be able to handle all of the projects expected impact as well as future growth. First with high-speed Broadband, video, and all voice service features currently available to the applicant's existing subscribers. This project initially deploys ultrafast broadband services over fiber facilities suitable for broadband at practically unlimited speeds, well

in excess of the definition of broadband services as 25/3 Mbps. Initial speeds of up to 1 Gbps will be available to every fiber-based subscriber.

Cirrinity has seen its past expansions in Langlade County act as engines to bring jobs and residential subscribers to new areas based upon the availability of fiber-based broadband services. The entire area is also ripe for economic expansion arising from year-around tourism. Cirrinity will continue to work with Langlade County long after this project, and all points in between to continue to grow in this high-need area.

f. **Economic development.** *A description of how the proposed project will promote job growth or retention, expand the property tax base or improve the overall economic vitality of the municipality or region. This description may be supplemented with a letter from one or more persons discussing the potential economic impact the project could have for that individual or business. In scoring this element, the following factors will be taken into account:*

- *A discussion of potential economic impact the project could have for an individual business located in the project area.*
- *An explanation of how an improved download and upload transmission speed could better support a specific business in the project area.*
- *An explanation of the likely impact improved broadband service could have on residential property values, supported by local sales data if available.*
- *A demonstration of how improved broadband service to a residential portion of the project could benefit a telecommuting population.*
- *A demonstration of how the speeds and service being offered by the project fits with current and future economic needs of the community and local businesses*

The Langlade County and Town of Polar, Rolling, and Norwood rea can grow in many ways if a dependable source of fiber-based broadband service became available.

o The Ice Age Trail. Langlade county is a center-point and carries the slogan “County of Trails” as it has several bike, hike, snowmobile, and ATV trails.

Reasons to stop in Langlade County and enjoy these several recreational activities mean opportunities to enjoy nearby businesses increasing tax revenue.

oThe newly designated Nicolet-Wolf River Scenic Byway awaits those that choose to enjoy the Northwoods from the comfort of their vehicle. If rafting or paddling is of interest, there is the Wolf River located nearby that is THE best whitewater river in the Midwest. The Wolf River offers everything from quiet calm waters in the northern section to complex rapids in the southern section as well as fantastic fishing opportunities.

Each of these magnets for relaxing and entertaining visits will lead to increased employment locally, increased year-round housing, and increasing tax rolls for the surrounding communities as well as incentivize the Tele-worker to relocate and work where you love to play in the outdoors.

Better connectivity for municipal, governmental and commercial services all stimulates growth, customer bases and employment in the area.

- o Town of Rolling Town Hall
- o Town of Norwood Town Hall
- o Town of Polar Town Hall
- o A local Lumber Yard
- o Three local churches.

- g. ***Effect upon broadband service to adjacent areas.*** *A description of whether the proposed project will or will not impair the ability of a broadband service provider or competing broadband service provider to extend broadband service to areas adjacent to the proposed project area.*

The incumbent does not maintain fiber nodes within the proposed project areas. Services being proposed will therefore not impact the incumbent's ability to serve in areas adjacent to the proposed project areas. If subscribers in adjacent areas are not met with updated infrastructure and capabilities from their incumbent provider, using infrastructure in the adjacent areas, residents of adjacent areas may eventually petition Cirrinity to further expand its FTTH broadband network. That would be a reasonable, and locally-desired Phase II project, now under consideration. The incumbent has made no attempts to reassure subscribers of eventual CAF II construction requirements arguably do not require fiber infrastructure, and can be satisfied by 10/1 Mbps service availability at any point in the coming five years. The incumbent can look statewide to satisfy federal requirements. This application does not have any material impact on the incumbent's ability to meet its CAF II requirements.

### ***3.2.5 Other Information Supporting the Application.***

*A description of applicant's history or experience constructing broadband communications facilities in the state and elsewhere*

- *If applicable, an applicant must comment upon the status of all prior broadband expansion grant projects, including the type of broadband technology used, the facility route actually built or installed, the number of residential and business customers actually connected, and other relevant details of the prior project(s).*
- *An applicant may also comment on broadband construction projects undertaken in prior years that were not funded in part by the Broadband Expansion Grant program.*

Wittenberg Wireless/Cirrinity has distinguished itself as both a provider, and as a manager of fiber-based broadband networks. It is the successful recipient of 7 other Wisconsin Broadband Expansion Grants letter of support from some customers who benefitted from these well managed projects.

Wittenberg Wireless/Cirrinity LLC purchased the City of Antigo's broadband utility in 2010 and has successfully operated it since that time. It currently has over 2500 FTTH and wireless subscribers in that area. It's major engineering projects as owner and



operator of the broadband utility now include CoVantage Credit Union (one of the largest in the state), Antigo School District, the City of Antigo, Amron, Inc. (a maker of ammunition for the government) and many others.

Cirrinity proved itself adept at understanding local needs through its negotiations with the City of Antigo via a city referendum to allow sale of its broadband utility was passed handsomely by an 88% margin. Cirrinity also initiated a docket with the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin to insure all regulatory issues associated with its purchase would be in place. Ultimately, the broadband utility was acquired for a price of \$1.6 million. Cirrinity continues to operate it, today. Cirrinity has since built a widely distributed fiber network by which it offers both fiber-based business services within the City of Antigo and throughout Langlade County. Through its projects beyond its regulated service areas, and previous successes completing Wisconsin Broadband Expansion Grants, the company has proved it can create and manage successful customer growth.

Wittenberg Telephone Company has also completed a FTTH build over the past 3 years to all of our ILEC customers while also juggling the progressive expansion in other areas.

Our previous Grant Status's:

All previous Wittenberg Wireless Grants are completed on or ahead of schedule. The previous ARPA round grants are on track and construction will start as soon as the ground allows this spring.

Cirrinity Innovations LLC grant from FY 2020 is on track for a 2022 completion – delayed due to tower lease issues during the start of the COVID19 pandemic but still during the performance period of the grant.

- *A description of how the proposed project will or will not duplicate existing broadband infrastructure.*

This project does not duplicate existing broadband infrastructure.

The Wisconsin intent to see broadly deployed broadband at speeds of at least 25/3 Mbps and much higher, which cannot be achieved with the incumbent's existing equipment. The areas in this application do not currently have fiber communications infrastructure, and are unlikely to see it under any reasonable scenario in the coming five years. Similarly, there is no duplication of fiber infrastructure able to served CMRS and wireless Internet providers in the area. There is no comparison of the service quality of fiber and aging copper plant that would count as a duplication of infrastructure.

- *A description of an applicant's financial ability to undertake the proposed broadband construction project.*

Cirrinity has demonstrated its ability to undertake state broadband grants through seven earlier awards. This application comes as it and its parent, Wittenberg Telephone

Company have experienced successful expansion in both their regulated and non-regulated endeavors. Each year Wittenberg Telephone and Wittenberg Wireless/Cirrinity submits its PSCW Annual Questionnaire in which it describes its revenues in both areas.

- *A description of how the proposed project will affect the ability of individuals to access health care service from home, including any impact upon the costs of those services*

In any sparsely populated area, the introduction of fiber infrastructure enables much faster and more reliable access to healthcare services and providers. Remote diagnostic medicine and health maintenance services from pediatric to geriatric purposes become possible with simple laptop cameras and attached devices that are becoming commonly available. The costs of travel and ultimately health insurance can quickly decline just due to the availability of highspeed broadband services. These communities lack local healthcare services and providers. This application makes a big difference.

- *A description of how the proposed project will affect the ability of students to access educational opportunities from home.*

High speed broadband access for the purposes of research and completing homework at home become possibilities if this application is accepted. As schools depend more and more on interactive distance learning and Internet access in real-time, the availability of high-speed broadband to students and those seeking vocational training will now be unencumbered by connection speed. Home schooling and summer classes, previously unworkable without high-speed broadband connection, now become a time-saving and travel-saving opportunity for children and teens. As mentioned above, the Langlade County Economic Development staff is emblematic of the demand for locally-accessed vocational training. Travel to UW-Extension two-year campuses can be difficult for those in rural Wisconsin settings. The ability to participate in online learning, and to work around interruptions of local employment and family life are an important adjunct to fiber broadband connectivity. Providing this connectivity significantly improves the return of this grant as an investment in Wisconsin's workforce.

- *A description of actions taken by a city, village, town, or county in support of the grant application that have not been discussed in the context of a public-private partnership above, including but not limited to:*

There are several ways that Langlade County and the Towns of Polar, Rolling and Norwood have given their time and support as a spur to rapid and successful completion of this project. To get to the point of us collaborating to work together and be successful, there has been several planning meetings and phone calls on personal time and without the hard work of each of our public-private partners this application wouldn't happen. Langlade County Economic Development has created the new Langlade County Broadband Commission which has helped this project and will help in planning around the area in focusing on high priority towns of need. The Broadband Commission was established in February 2022.

**Town of Polar  
Langlade County, Wisconsin**

Lisa Kuenzli, Chairman  
W6010 Woodsflowage Rd  
Bryant WI 54418

Jake Leiterman, Supervisor II  
W6782 Rabe Lane  
Bryant WI 54418

Jason Muraski, Supervisor I  
N4539 Polar Rd  
Bryant, WI 54418

Jane Kolpack, Clerk  
W6870 5th Avenue Rd  
Bryant WI 54418

Carol Estreen, Treasurer  
W7716 Crestwood Rd  
Antigo, WI 54409

January 21, 2022

Cirrinity  
Attention: Scott

This letter is to confirm the following agreement to provide funds for the expansion of broadband service in the Town of Polar, Langlade County, Wisconsin.

**On July 15, 2021, at the Town of Polar regular monthly meeting, motion was made and approved to designate \$50,240.91 of the ARPA Grant Funds to expand broadband service in the Town of Polar with Cirrinity.**

Attached please find a copy of our July 15, 2021 meeting minutes to confirm this motion.

The Town of Polar looks forward to working with Cirrinity to bring broadband service into our township.

Sincerely,

*Jane Kolpack*

Jane Kolpack  
Clerk

# ***Town of Norwood***

Supervisor – Greg Verhasselt  
715-489-3138

**Chairman – Craig Wilhelm**  
**715-216-2080**

Supervisor – Bradley Royce  
715-216-3062

Clerk – Paula Resch  
715-627-7276 / 715-216-0492

Treasurer – Kim Bissonette  
715-216-1722

N1119 Trout Rd, Antigo WI 54409  
E-mail – [townofnorwood@yahoo.com](mailto:townofnorwood@yahoo.com)

---

March 2, 2022

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin  
PO Box 7854  
Madison, WI 53707

**RE: Letter of Support for Wittenberg Wireless LLC Application for Langlade County 2022  
PSC Broadband Expansion Grant Round 5-BF-2022**

Dear PSC Broadband Expansion Grant Review Committee:

Like many rural communities in Wisconsin, the Town of Norwood in Langlade County, Wisconsin has very limited options for access to broadband. With the growing critical need for our students, emergency management, telemedicine, business expansion and attraction, the town of Norwood is committed and excited to partner with Wittenberg Wireless LLC in expanding broadband in our community and fully support the 2022 PSC Broadband Expansion Grant Application.

To signify our partnership, the Town of Norwood has committed to designate \$45,000 as match funds to help bring this project to fruition if the PSC Grant is awarded.

The Town of Norwood supports Wittenberg Wireless, LLC and the Langlade County Economic Development Corporation to continue their efforts of enhancing broadband access and availability to help position Langlade County for desirable economic growth and would appreciate your thoughtful consideration on awarding this grant application.

Sincerely,

*Craig Wilhelm*

Craig Wilhelm  
Chair, Town of Norwood

March 10, 2022

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin  
PO Box 7854  
Madison, WI 53707

**RE: Letter of Support for Wittenberg Wireless LLC Application for Langlade  
County 2022 PSC Broadband Expansion Grant Round 5-BF-2022**

Dear PSC Broadband Expansion Grant Review Committee:

The Town of Rolling is committed to bring true broadband to our 950 residents and is excited to partner with Wittenberg Wireless LLC with a commitment of \$75,000 as matching funds towards the 2022 PSC Broadband Expansion Grant Application.

This proposed project will bring more economic growth to our town and continue to allow residents the opportunity to get affordable and reliable broadband that is much needed for education, telehealth, and business growth.

The Town of Rolling fully supports Wittenberg Wireless, LLC and the Langlade County Economic Development Corporation to continue their efforts of enhancing affordable and reliable broadband access to all residents and position Langlade County for desirable economic growth and would appreciate your thoughtful consideration on awarding this grant application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dave Kautza", written in a cursive style.

Dave Kautza  
Chair, Town of Rolling





# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P. O. Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882

March 1, 2022

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin  
PO Box 7854  
Madison, WI 53707

Dear PSC Broadband Expansion Grant Review Committee,

Please accept this letter in support of Cirrinity, LLC's PSC Broadband Expansion Grant application in Langlade County, in partnership with the County, as well as the Towns of Norwood, Polar, and Rolling. With the proposed fiber optic broadband project spanning about 65 miles, we strongly believe that this grant funding would play a huge role in bringing these communities into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

This grant will level the playing field by helping to provide much needed and affordable broadband access to over 525 homes and businesses. Many residents in these areas continue to rely on slower broadband connections in their homes and businesses, placing the area at a distinct disadvantage. Broadband expansion will attract new businesses, promote student educational opportunities, and address health and safety issues in remote areas.

Langlade County has signaled its commitment to building their broadband infrastructure by creating a Broadband Taskforce within the Langlade County Economic Development Corporation. This taskforce is made up of county officials and residents, as well as Cirrinity, LLC – who has been involved since 2015. There is no doubt in our mind that this team will continue to fight for affordable and reliable broadband solutions for the people of Langlade County.

The Broadband Expansion Grant is an important step towards increasing economic development in the heart of the Northwoods. Thank you for your time and consideration of our request. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

Senator Mary Felzkowski  
Wisconsin State Senator  
12<sup>th</sup> Senate District

Representative Calvin Callahan  
Wisconsin State Representative  
35<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

March 2, 2022

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin  
PO Box 7854  
Madison, WI 53707

RE: Letter of Support for Wittenberg Wireless LLC PSC Broadband Expansion Grant Application 5-BF-2022 for Langlade County Fiber to the Home Project that includes Towns of Norwood, Polar, and Rolling.

Dear PSC Broadband Expansion Grant Review Committee:

The Langlade County Economic Development Corporation, which by definition, provides services that aide the economic growth of Langlade County. Part of that growth is to improve broadband capability to reach the most potential un-served or under-served residences and business in Langlade County where such service is currently unavailable, or is prohibitively expensive.

LCEDC created a Broadband Taskforce that is made up of county officials and residents of Langlade County. Wittenberg Wireless, LLC has been part of the Taskforce since we started in 2016 and has been our major partner in implementing broadband strategies in Langlade County and has been successful in previous grant applications that we have supported. Recently, a broadband Commission formation has been approved.

We are continuing to partner with our school districts, healthcare facilities, emergency management and towns to show a unified force to obtain our goal on getting affordable and reliable broadband to every household in Langlade County.

The Langlade County Economic Development supports Wittenberg Wireless, LLC to continue the efforts of enhancing broadband access and availability to help position Langlade County for desirable economic growth.

We also support Wittenberg Wireless LLC as a continued partner; broadband and bandwidths are a huge component of economic development, especially in our rural areas, where needs to boost tourism and permanent employment are great. We believe their fiber optic deployment of 65 miles to over 528 homes and businesses will be a great contributor to both.

Sincerely,

*Angie Close*

Angie Close  
Executive Director



# Unified School District of Antigo

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE  
120 S DORR STREET, ANTIGO, WI 54409-1220  
PHONE: 715-627-4355 FAX: 715-623-3279

**Dr. Julie Sprague**  
**District Administrator**

*Mission – The Unified School District of Antigo ensures high levels of learning for each and every student through high quality instruction.*

*Vision – Every student and staff member experiences a sense of belonging and authentic supportive relationships. In partnership with our community, we commit to fostering student wellbeing and learning success.*

March 2, 2022

Subject: Proposed Project for Langlade County 2022 PSC Broadband Expansion Grant

The Unified School District of Antigo is writing in support of the proposed Langlade County Broadband Expansion Project. The need for fast, reliable, and affordable internet services is important to our students, families and community. Access to broadband for all residents of rural Langlade County is simply not available. By supporting this project we are asking for digital equity with families living in larger communities.

During the coronavirus pandemic, the Antigo school district invested heavily into a student learning management platform and also purchased personal computing devices for all of our students. Over half of our students didn't have broadband access, so we provided mobile hotspots to students living in those underserved areas. The performance of the mobile hotspots was marginal at best and they did not allow for video streaming. All students need access to high speed broadband.

If the Antigo community is going to compete with our neighboring communities, we need all of the county to be served by high quality broadband. The proposal from Cirrinity will improve EMS communications and allow residents along the route to have high speed internet. The project will also allow Cirrinity to extend their fiber network into additional rural portions of Langlade County. This extension should give Cirrinity the potential to expand broadband service to more families in the near future and provide service to the remaining areas of Langlade County without access.

We strongly support the Langlade County 2022 PSC Broadband Expansion Project. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please feel free to reach me at (715) 627-4355 x1235 or [jsprague@antigoschools.org](mailto:jsprague@antigoschools.org). Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Dr. Julie Sprague  
District Administrator

JS/mkp



Department of Administration

Jason Hilger, C.P.A.  
County Manager  
837 Clermont Street  
Antigo, Wisconsin 54409  
jhilger@co.langlade.wi.us

February 23, 2022

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin  
PO Box 7854  
Madison, WI 53707

RE: Letter of Support for Wittenberg Wireless LLC PSC Broadband Expansion Grant  
Application for Langlade County Fiber to Homes

Dear PSC Broadband Expansion Grant Review Committee:

Langlade County, as you may be aware, is a rural and poor community which has a large population of unserved and underserved homes and businesses. Many rural areas have no access to the internet or access through very expensive and unreliable means. The fiber to homes as planned would be very beneficial to our County and the State as more and more people relocate to Langlade County to enjoy the great Northwoods, relocate their businesses, retire, etc. and as more and more children are home schooled whether by choice or by Covid.

The Langlade County Economic Development Corporation created a Broadband Taskforce and is in the process of creating a Broadband Commission to help develop better connections throughout the County. Wittenberg Wireless, LLC has been part of the Taskforce since inception in 2016 and has been our major partner in implementing broadband strategies in Langlade County. They have been successful in working with the PSC and the County in previous grant rounds and we are hopeful they are successful in this grant as well.

This grant would greatly help the townships identified and will be another great step in the right direction. The improvements would not be possible without your participation. The Langlade County Board supports Wittenberg Wireless, LLC to continue the efforts of enhancing broadband access and helping position Langlade County for economic growth. We would appreciate your support.

Sincerely,

Jason Hilger, CPA  
Langlade County Administrator

**Jon Petroskey**  
**Fire Chief**  
[jpetroskey@antigo-city.org](mailto:jpetroskey@antigo-city.org)



**Eric Roller**  
**Public Safety Director**  
[eroller@antigo-city.org](mailto:eroller@antigo-city.org)

## **City of Antigo Fire Department**

February 23, 2022

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin  
PO Box 7854  
Madison, WI 53707

RE: Letter of Support for Langlade County 2022 PSC Broadband Expansion Grant  
Round 5-BF-2022

Dear PSC Broadband Expansion Grant Review Committee:

The City of Antigo Fire Department supports the Broadband Expansion Grant submitted by Cirrinity to the rural parts of Langlade County. The City of Antigo Fire Department also provides Emergency Medical Services to majority of Langlade County and the lack of reliable connection to many parts of the county is a growing concern. Individual's ability to research better health decision and to connect to their health profile provided by their health care system makes for a healthier community.

The way we do business now days, it is critical to be connected and having the ability to connect is vital even for our Paramedics to do their jobs. We rely on connectivity to transmit 12 lead EKG's, patient reports through our iPads and software systems that provides connections to Langlade County Dispatch for directions and other vital communications that normally cannot be transmitted over the radio system.

The rural communities impacted by this grant application needs a reliable connection. Thank you for your consideration to support the citizens of Langlade County and Emergency Services.

Sincerely,

Jon Petroskey  
Fire Chief

700 Edison Street  
Antigo, Wisconsin 54409

715-350-7350  
[www.antigo-city.org/AFD](http://www.antigo-city.org/AFD)





# Langlade County Sheriff's Office

840 Clermont Street, Antigo, WI 54409-1947

Phone: (715) 627-6411 Fax: (715) 627-6433

Website: [www.co.langlade.wi.us](http://www.co.langlade.wi.us)

**Mark B. Westen**  
Sheriff

**Daniel P Bauknecht**  
Chief Deputy

February 23, 2022

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin  
PO Box 7854  
Madison, WI 53707

Re: Letter of Support for Wittenberg Wireless LLC PSC Broadband Expansion Grant  
Application for Towns of Rolling, Norwood, and Polar

Dear PSC Broadband Expansion Grant Review Committee:

The Langlade County Sheriff's Office supports the Langlade County Economic Development Corporation and Wittenberg Wireless, LLC PSC Grant application which would bring additional high-speed internet to hundreds of Langlade County residences in the Towns of Polar, Rolling and Norwood.

The Langlade County Sheriff's Office utilizes an emergency notification system for severe weather and many other potential emergent scenarios which require either a strong cellular network or a reliable home Wi-Fi network to deliver those notifications. Additionally, social media platforms such as Facebook are used to disseminate important information to our residents.

Fast reliable internet service has proven to be a very effective tool to enhance public safety agencies service as we strive to accomplish our goals. Once again, our office supports this grant application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark B. Westen".

Sheriff Mark B. Westen  
Langlade County Sheriff's Office

# LANGLADE COUNTY



**RESOLUTION #11-2022**

**INTRODUCED BY: ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE**

**INTENT: SUPPORT FORMATION OF A BROADBAND COMMISSION AND SEEKING BROADBAND EXPANSION TO PROVIDE INTERNET SERVICE TO ALL RESIDENTS OF LANGLADE COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, large areas within Llanglade County lack internet service or have internet service data upload and download speeds lower than those required for reliable data processing and data transmission; and

**WHEREAS**, reliable High-Speed Internet service and infrastructure related to internet service are critical components in providing police, fire, rescue communication services and access to internet application which increase efficiency of these services and therefore improve public safety; and

**WHEREAS**, reliable High-Speed Internet service at homes are a critical need for students of all area school districts which now require utilization of technology including tablets and laptops for daily assignments and without internet services some students are left behind in required classes and classwork; and

**WHEREAS**, reliable High-Speed Internet service at homes are a critical need for Colleges, Universities and other higher forms of advance education for provision of remote instruction and learning and without internet services some Llanglade County residents do not have opportunities for advanced education without relocation from Llanglade County addresses; and

**WHEREAS**, reliable High-Speed Internet service at homes and facilities are a critical need for health care providers that can monitor patient health remotely (also known as Telemedicine) and without that ability many people including aging and disabled must relocate their homes to areas with appropriate Telemedicine opportunities; and

**WHEREAS**, businesses of all varieties now require Reliable High-Speed Internet service to provide access to financial transactions, and regional and worldwide markets and areas within Llanglade County without Reliable High-Speed Internet service fail to retain and attract businesses and industry which sustain the local work force; and

**WHEREAS**, the COVID pandemic has accentuated the need for Reliable High-Speed Internet service in all homes, businesses and industry locations as a primary utility; and

**WHEREAS**, based on the above facts, the Llanglade County Board of Supervisors believes that provision of Reliable High-Speed Internet service for all locations within Llanglade County is extremely important to the residents, businesses, industry and economy of Llanglade County; and

**WHEREAS**, based on the above facts, the Llanglade County Board of Supervisors believes that provision of Reliable High-Speed Internet service for all locations within Llanglade County will improve efficiency of emergency and medical services and improve the safety of all residents and visitors of Llanglade County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Committee recommends the establishment of a Broadband Commission organized under the Llanglade County Economic Development Corporation, and further recommends the Commission include the following members:

1. One Member from the Llanglade County Economic Development Corporation as designated by action of the Corporation.
2. One Member from the Llanglade County Administrative Committee as designated by action of the Committee.

3. One Member from the Langlade County Sherriff's Department or dispatch center as designated by the County Sherriff.
4. One Member of a Langlade County fire department or a representative of all fire departments within the County as determined by nomination from the departments.
5. One Member of the Aspirus Health Program as designated by that organization.
6. One member from each of the Antigo, Elcho and White Lake School Districts as appointed by the School Board.
7. One member from each Township Government, City and Village within Langlade County as appointed by the appropriate Board or Council.

**WHEREAS**, the Committee requests that at its earliest convenience, the Langlade County Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors establish a Broadband Commission and approve the members of the Broadband Commission at a scheduled and posted public meeting of the Board; and

**WHEREAS**, the Committee recommends that the Broadband Commission, at its first meeting, appoint a Broadband Commission Chairman by a majority vote of its members; and

**WHEREAS**, the Committee recommends that the Broadband Commission Chairman act as the single point contact for broadband opportunities in Langlade County.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Langlade County Board of Supervisors hereby requests and supports the creation of a Broadband Commission organized under the Langlade Economic Development Corporation;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Langlade County Board of Supervisors agrees to cooperate with recommendations of the Broadband Commission and may authorize County sponsorship of grant funding requests and County budget funding for Broadband based activities with future approvals by the Board.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Langlade County Board of Supervisors recognizes the authority for Broadband Commission activities, including appointment of County representation on the Commission and review and forwarding of Broadband Commission requests for County support to the Administrative Committee.

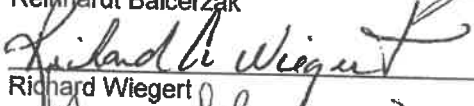
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Langlade County Board of Supervisors supports Broadband Commission activities to make Reliable High-Speed Internet service, at Federal minimum service standards, available to all areas of Langlade County, with priority given to projects based on areas that are unserved or underserved.

**LANGLADE COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE:**

  
Ben Pierce, Chairman

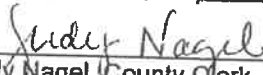
John Medo

  
Reinhardt Balcerzak

  
Richard Wiegert

  
George Shimmers

Adopted by the County Board of Langlade County,  
this 28 th day of February, 2022.

  
Judy Nagel, County Clerk

HE



March 2, 2022

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin  
PO Box 7854  
Madison, WI 53707

RE: Letter of Support for Langlade County Economic Development Corporation Broadband Expansion Grant Application

Dear Review Committee:

On behalf of Northcentral Technical College (NTC), I would like to express our support of the broadband expansion grant to the Langlade County Economic Development Corporation.

Residents and learners in north central Wisconsin should have equitable access to high-speed, affordable and reliable broadband internet. Digital equity and inclusion ensures that all learners have the ability to access higher education opportunities that will improve their employability and help them positively contribute to the local economy. By providing equitable access to high-speed broadband, we can ensure an enhanced digital learning experience for all students regardless of their socioeconomic status. This is especially imperative for learners at NTC, as nearly 70 percent of the College's students who apply for financial aid receive some form of financial assistance.

At NTC, we also value the health and safety of the communities that we serve. This project would have a significant impact in bringing 65 miles of Fiber to the Home (FTTH) 10 gigabit capable Broadband to 528 homes and businesses in the towns of Rolling, Norwood and Polar. As an educational provider and community partner, we support the inherent value that this broadband expansion would provide to communities in Langlade County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dr. Jeannie Worden". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "J" and "W".

Dr. Jeannie Worden  
President

CC: Angie Close, Langlade County Economic Development Corporation

**TOWN OF POLAR REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
HELD ON JULY 15, 2021**

The meeting and agenda were posted in the Antigo Daily Journal, Timberhaven and on the town hall bulletin board.

5:33 pm Meeting was called to order by Chairman, Lisa Kuenzli. Present were; Chairman Lisa Kuenzli; Supervisor I; Jason Muraski, Supervisor II; Jake Leiterman, Clerk; Jane Kolpack and Treasurer; Carol Estreen, there were 8 citizens in attendance.

Prior Month Minutes: Motion made by Lisa to abstain from the reading of the minutes; second by, Jake, motion carried. Motion made by Lisa to accept the minutes as written; second by, Jake, motion carried.

Treasurer/Financial Report: Report was read by Treasurer, Carol Estreen. Motion made by Lisa to accept the report; second by, Jake, motion carried.

Fire Department/Finance Report: Fire Department report was read by, Jake. Motion made by Lisa to accept the report; second by, Jason, motion carried.

Road/Finance Report: Road/Finance Report was read by Jason. Motion made by Lisa to accept the report; second by, Jake, motion carried.

Correspondence: Permits; Langlade County Land and Records.

Public Comment: None

ARPA Grant: Town of Polar was awarded \$50,240.91 which has been deposited in our variable rate account. Discussion on the use of the grant money and the requirements it must meet along with information from Cirrinity in regards to future grants. Motion made by Jake to designate the funds to go towards expanding broadband services with Cirrinity; second by, Jason, motion carried.

Junk Ordinances: Following Junk Ordinances will be issued:  
Property located at: W6265 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Rd Bryant WI 54418

Spring Breeze Dairy-Roads: When they are hauling, they are sending emails in regards to roads being used.

Roads: North East will begin pulverizing next week; starting on 5<sup>th</sup> Ave and Pavak. County Highway Department worked on the bridge/guardrail on Polar Rd.

Fire Department: Eric Borchardt was in attendance; the water tanker is in need of repairs in the amount of \$1,725.00 by Skarlupka; Motion made by Jake to approve of the repairs; second by, Jason, motion carried.

Jake did a recap on the history of the fire department; indicating that there is only one fire department; Town of Antigo with the Town of Polar serving as a hub. The three townships of the Town of Antigo, Polar and Price all share the finances, equipment and manpower for the department.

Eric spoke regarding number of members and where they reside and provided some history on the forming of the departments along with ISO rating information. Documents were provided to the board members in reference to the department and each township and their responsibilities. ISO rating is a huge benefit for the townships. Clarification as to why certain trucks are parked at certain departments; it is all based on need and response. The department does fill pools and the money is used for equipment. The department doesn't just get calls for fires; they get called for trees down, car accidents and more. He indicated that in the end it doesn't matter what name is on the truck; it's all about providing the protection needed. Eric provided information regarding the run reports for everything they do and the training requirement hours/points used when they go to these runs, whether it be fire calls, mutual aid calls and etc. Additional information on the SAP program provided to the members. Lisa ended by thanking, Jake, Eric and Terry for the clarifications and their service to the department.

Pay Bills: Motion made to pay the bills by Lisa; second by, Jake, motion carried.

Next Meeting Dates: Thursday, August 19, 2021 at 5:30 pm

Adjourn: With no other business to come before the board, Lisa made the motion to adjourn; second by, Jake, motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:53 pm.

These minutes were entered into the record book at a Town of Polar regular monthly meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2021.

---

Jane Kolpack, Clerk